

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY

FOR 1893.

THE CHINA DIRECTORY.

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has been considerably extended, both in the

Directory proper and in the Appendix. The

ports of CHONGKING, WUWU, SHANGHAI,

CHINA, JAPAN, THE PHILIPPINES, STRAITS

SETTLEMENTS, COCHIN CHINA, SIAM, &c.

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tion; even then, in 1839, I am persuaded

"that the Indian opium imported, though

"undoubtedly the opium most in request,

"was but a small proportion of the drug

"consumed in China." It further says

that from inquiries he prosecuted with some

intention in the years 1846-49, less than

ten years, that is to say, from the date of our

first rupture with China, he found that the

poppy was cultivated in at least ten of the

eighteen provinces of China. There are

other extremely interesting statements in

this report, the effect of which in our opium

is to completely corroborate the British

claim of the charge of having introduced the

vice of opium smoking—viz vice it be-

came into China. We do not ourselves look

upon it as a vice *per se*; we regard it

simply as a luxury, which, like all luxu-

ries, may become vicious when indulged

in excess. The responsibility on the

ground rests solely with the consumer, and as

Sir THOMAS WADSWORTH says in a dispatch to the

PRINCE OF KUNG, so long as the opium pro-

duced in China is sufficient to supply the

needs of the Chinese, the reduction of the

quantity of opium imported, or even the

total exclusion of foreign opium, will not

remunerate the opium smoker. This is self-

evident, and we fail to see that any

moral culpability attaches to the culti-

vation, manufacture, or dealer in an

article of luxury, simply because the luxury

is in individual cases indulged in to excess.

It is not difficult, for instance, to conceive of

a tobacco planter honestly holding the belief

that the use of tobacco was deleterious and

himself eschewing it as such, and yet per-

serving a clear conscience while endeavouring

to make the most he can out of his business.

Or, to put even a stronger case, where

it is not a luxury that is concerned, a

manufacturer of arms and ammunition

might very reasonably on abstract grounds

hold the opinion held by many sensible men

that international disputes could be more

satisfactorily settled by means of arbitration

than by war. The question of conscience

does not arise in such a case. So Sir THOMAS

WADSWORTH says, "The evil in opium smok-

ing in China I do not contest," but

"When I proposed at Chiaofoo to recom-

"mend a change in the method of tax-

"ing it, I said, I confess, no thought

"ever of assisting the Chinese Government

"to extinguish the trade in Indian opium."

"I was dealing only with the rights of China

"in respect of the revenue derivable from

"opium, that question being part of the

"larger revenue question which I was seek-

"ing to regulate in a manner practical

"and equitable." In view of the facts of the

case it is useless to introduce the moral

question in regard to our Indian opium trade.

Sir THOMAS WADSWORTH says that even in 1847

the cultivation and preparation of the drug

were not a new grown business in Kwangsi.

The rice crop, he was assured, in some

parts of the province was sacrificed to

the poppy. In the South of Fuhien a

white poppy was grown the opium manu-

factured from which was cheap but

exceedingly deleterious. In the far North-

west, at Lan-chow-fu, an opium was manu-

factured which was credited with the nearest

approach to excellence to our own. The

provinces of Szechuen, Hupel, and Hunan pro-

duced their own opium; and when, in 1838,

Sir THOMAS accompanied Lord Elgin to

Hankow he remarked that although the na-

tive drug from these and the provinces of

Kwangtung and Kwangsi was advertised

outside the smoking-divans as openly as our

public-house advertise the liquor we drink,

there was not to be seen in any street that he

traversed a single notice that foreign opium

was for sale. Sir THOMAS, speaking on the

authority of the reports of the members of

the Consular service who were sent to see

whether the proclamation on the Yunnan

outrage had been posted, says that while

it has been supposed Yunnan drew opium

from British Burma, it appears on the con-

trary, that Burmah proper, at all events, is

supplied from Yunnan. Having stated these

and other facts Sir THOMAS WADSWORTH says it is

as likely that, with improved tillage and pre-

paration, the native product will one day

compete with ours, as that certain of our

The British steamer *Benington* was docked at

Kowloon yesterday morning.

The French gunboat *Indra*, Captain Roquier,

arrived here yesterday from Amoy.

Telegrams for Bangkok came forward by

mail steamer at Singapore at 8 p.m., on Sunday,

the 3rd instant.

The Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and

Co.) inform us that the Netherlands India Steam

Navigation Co.'s steamer *Gemara* left Batavia

today for this port.

The Agent informs us that the Messageries

Maritimes steamer *Arca*, with the next outward

French mail, left Saigon at 4 p.m. on Thursday

for Hongkong. The steamer will be met by the

Superintendent of the Eastern Extension Telegraph

Company that has passed Cape St. James at

about 10 p.m.

The *Austro-Hungarian Lloyd's* steamer *Brera*,

which arrived here yesterday morning from

Trieste, is a new vessel, having been built

at Trieste. Her complement is 204 and

gross tonnage 3,700; length between perpen-

diculars, 812 feet, with 34 feet beam and 24 feet

depth of hold. She has compound surface con-

densing engines of 110 and 1,300 horse power.

She is built of steel, and is a

single screw steamer. She is of the same line

as the *Prinzess*, of the same line, which was

built here about a month since. Her pas-

senger accommodation is arranged with every

regard to taste and comfort.

Yesterday evening, about nine o'clock, a good

deal of rain was experienced in the colony.

The *Ly-on-moon* steamer, which arrived here

from Hongkong, is now at anchor in the

Ly-on-moon Pass. The ship seemed to indicate

a serious case, and much speculation was

made as to the cause. On inquiry, it was found

that the ship was carrying a cargo of opium.

The ship was built at Hongkong, and is a

single screw steamer. She is of the same line

as the *Prinzess*, of the same line, which was

built here about a month since. Her pas-

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regard to taste and comfort.

The design for the new building for the

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to be erected on

the site of the existing premises and those re-

cently occupied by the Chartered Mercantile

Bank, has been selected. Messrs. Wilson and

Bird, the architects, have been selected. The

design is a fine specimen of modern architecture.

The building, which is to be erected on the

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